

BELLINGHAM CENTRAL LIONS

JUNGLEER



Mayor Speaks at Lions Club

Mark Your Calendar:

February 2026

- February 3 Board Meeting
- February 9 Community Needs Meeting
- February 10 Membership Meeting
- February 17 Board Meeting
- February 24 Membership Meeting

March 2026

- March 3 Board Meeting
- March 9 Community Needs Meeting
- March 10 Membership Meeting
- March 17 Board Meeting
- March 20-22 19-O District Convention
- March 24 Membership Meeting

Tell us what you're up to!

To be included in the monthly bulletin, please send articles, photos, opportunities, and committee updates to Rebecca Anderson at rwarberg@yahoo.com

Regular Meetings

Board Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday @ Noon

Membership Meetings: 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ Noon

Community Needs Meeting: 2nd Monday

Meeting Place: Lions Community Room



Mayor Lund Speaks at Lions Club Meeting

Pictured right, Bellingham Mayor, Kim Lund with Lion John Wilson and Bellingham's Lions Club President, Todd Hathaway.

Committee Highlights

Community Needs:

- \$2,000 will be donated to Lyndon Lions for cleaning and living supplies for Everson flood victims

Concession Stand:

- First event will start in March!

Wheelchair Warehouse:

- 412 clients in January with 287 volunteer hours and \$4,305 in donations

Membership:

- BCLC will pay \$35 fee for all future incoming applicants until June 30, 2026

Other items:

WWU students are working on our website!



Introducing...

By Bob Curtis

The Bellingham Central Lions Club Wheelchair Warehouse would like to introduce Whatcom Community College student, Karina Serafinowicz, to our members. She is currently attending WCC in their Physical Therapy program and spending winter quarter with the WcWh. She will be spending half of her winter quarter working with our client interface team to acquire practical experience fitting mobility equipment according to a client's needs. The other half of her tour will be spent with our repair team learning the ins and outs of repairing a variety of mobility equipment. Hopefully, this acquired skill will be useful in the field when her clients are having issues with their equipment. Will she be able to repair it or recommend a new item. Pictured from left to right is Lion Ron Evans, Repair Room Lead, Karina, and Bob Curtis, WcWh Warehouse Team Lead.





Lions Club Anniversaries

February

Mark Costello - 15 years

Hannah Joyner - 4 years

Mimi Curtis - 4 years

LCIF in District O

Taken from January 25, 2026 District O Newsletter

LCIF Matching Grant for MD19 approved! Several months ago, four Lions Clubs across two districts combined donations to work towards much needed renovations to guest rooms at Easter Seals House in Vancouver, BC. For more than 40 years, this 49 room property has been a godsend for families who need accommodation when bringing their child to BC Children's Hospital. It allows them to stay together as a family, without having to break the bank. But after four decades, the well-used rooms do need to be refurbished. North Surrey and Maple Ridge Lions Clubs in our District, and the Logan Lake and Enderby Lions Clubs in District I came together and raised \$25,000 CDN to refurbish one room. Our Multiple District then applied for a Matching Grant from LCIF so we could double our impact, and last week, the grant was approved! Donations to LCIF help with projects like this around the world, and here at home too. Congratulations!



District O News

Back to School! Registrations are already coming in, so get ready and get registered for our **Back To School Spring Conference!**

Use the QR code to go straight to registration. Act now to get in the amazing deal of just \$100 cdn which includes all events.

SpringCon 2026: Back To School, March 20-21 at the Evergreen Hall in Chilliwack, BC

Featuring our International Guest, International Director Debbie Dawson from Ontario, Canada



Because Hearing Well Means Living Well.



WHATCOM AUDIOLOGY

We're more than a clinic — we're a community-focused, woman-owned practice where patient care comes first. Together, we'll find the hearing solutions that keep you connected. Accepting new patients!



Contact us today: 360-392-8683 — 805 W Orchard Drive, Suite 8 | Bellingham

Whatcom County **VHS** Digital Transfer Services



VHS tape conversion to a digital format that can be saved & enjoyed on ALL your devices.

\$10 per hour of tape

For every 5 video tapes we convert, one is copied **FREE!**

Contact for custom delivery options (USB, DVD, ETC)

Call or Text: **971.432.5167**
Email: Josephcburda@gmail.com

Preserve your Memories!



Your trusted local agency for all things Medicare.
We shop the market at no cost to you.

Jeremy Loween
360-838-1484
jeremy@wahip.org

WAHIP
WASHINGTON HEALTH INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS

Jon S. Strebler, M.A.
FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH
SINCE 1996



619.981-4220 CELL
jstreblers2@gmail.com
1290 W. Axton Rd.
Ferndale, WA 98248

Member — APG
apg Association of Professional GENEALOGISTS

C-HOME DESIGN L.L.C.
Home Design & Remodel

MARK P. COSTELLO
Designer

Cell: 360.739.2305
Bellingham, WA 98229
mpcdesign@live.com



- BUILDING DESIGN SERVICES
- PRELIMINARY DESIGN
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- PROJECT REVIEW



Candi's Travel Shoppe
Creating Sweet Trips for Clients

Candi Pataky
Travel Advisor

360-739-5678
canditravelshoppe@outlook.com



- RAWLS FAMILY TEAM -
OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

MIKE RAWLS, REAL ESTATE BROKER
CELL: 360-319-3143
EMAIL: REALTORRAWLS@COMCAST.NET

BELLWETHER REAL ESTATE
11 BELLWETHER WAY SUITE 201
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

BELLWETHER
REAL ESTATE

Bellingham Technical College Scholarship Recipients

Emma Somawang - Nursing

As I reflect on my journey towards a career in healthcare and medicine, one pivotal moment stands out quite vividly in my memories. I went to Costa Rica after high school with a program, never imagining it would change my entire perspective on the world. I saw what the governmental structure of a 3rd world country can do, the atrocities of poverty and unjust socio-economic systems shocked my 19-year-old self into reality. Upon returning to America with this new-found perspective, I began to take notice in the similarities. I spent years observing and interacting with victims of such alienation from a country I had previously thought of as prosperous and free, and something snapped in me. I knew I had to do something for these people; I had to help. When I decided to spend a semester abroad, I anticipated adventure, cultural immersion, community, and growth. Living in the same small town my whole life, I longed to explore everywhere else. Being suddenly placed in the mountains in a country 3500 miles from home was incredibly exciting. The first few weeks were filled with wonder and exhilaration, and I couldn't wait for the months to come. Not long after, I began noticing the cracks in the appearances of the town and program. On a tour around the town, our guides warned us of certain areas and establishments to avoid. Locals spoke to us about how grateful they were for our program, that it essentially funded the community and kept businesses open. We did volunteer work across the community and schools throughout the months. We saw children walking miles to get to school coupled with the absurd crime rates concerned us. Food and medication imports were incredibly limited, and vendors walked into traffic to sell dried fruits. We passed through impoverished communities regularly, and there wasn't a single house with less than 2 individuals living there. One of the most shocking experiences was the medical services. There was one clinic for the entire town, and one hospital for the three neighboring towns. The hospital was located atop a very steep hill and looked like a parking garage. Half of the facility was outdoors; hallways only covered with a roof. I was required to go there once for an infection, and though the staff was incredibly attentive, I was shocked by the state of the facility. Rooms were tiny, some containing a single folding-chair, and many patients were waiting outside the building to be seen, as the waiting room contained no more than 20 chairs, no bigger than most public restrooms in America. Yet, staff managed to work well in these conditions; equipment was sterile, all the doctors spoke English, there was no chaos; no screaming or crying. After recovering, I came to the realization that no one complained because there was nothing they could do; they worked with what they were given. Their government didn't prioritize healthcare, and lack of funding crippled their facilities. Healthcare workers were giving 120% of their effort every single day, and the patients knew it. This memory remained in my mind long after I returned home. Though it was hard transitioning back, all I really could do was compare my hometown to my experiences abroad. I began noticing the similarities, the inequality among marginalized populations. Though not as stark, it was prevalent. People struggling to afford healthcare, prescription medications, even their homes. Seeing all of this with fresh eyes was confounding to me, and I realized how prevalent pain and suffering actually was in the modern world. It hurt me to realize that in truth, I had no power to help all of these people. I had no connections, no resources, no medical knowledge; and I couldn't stand it. I began working at a detox center, gaining insight into the opioid epidemic and inhumane actions against almost every person who came through the door. I gained fulfillment, but I still felt I could do more. I wanted to be able to directly help as many people as possible. Observing the nurses in my field, I knew that was where I wanted to start. However I didn't want to stop there but develop myself as much as possible with the goal of helping as many as possible. If my passion wasn't in medical I would become an activist, but these experiences with one-on-one care, meeting these individuals and hearing their stories, has only further ignited my passion. I want to better myself for them.

Bellingham Technical College Scholarship Recipients – continued

Mackenzie Wright – Nursing

My name is Mackenzie Wright, and I am a 29-year-old single mother. I was born and raised in Whatcom County, Washington, and now I'm raising my children in the same community where I grew up. I have always been drawn to the idea of helping people, and for as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a nurse. Even in high school, I pictured myself graduating and immediately going to college to pursue a nursing career. I was excited and motivated, and I truly believed that nursing was the path meant for me, but life doesn't always go as planned. During my senior year of high school, I became pregnant. My son was born prematurely, and his early arrival completely changed the course of my life. My focus instantly shifted to him, and all of my goals and dreams were put on pause. As a brand-new mother, especially to a premature baby, I had to grow up quickly. I didn't have the option to think about school or career paths. Instead, I jumped right into the workforce to support us. My role as a mother came first, and I was determined to give my son the best life I could. I entered the corporate world and did what I had to do to provide for my family. At the time, nursing felt like something that had to stay on the back burner. But even while working office jobs, I never stopped thinking about nursing. It was always there in the back of my mind, an unshaken dream that I never gave up on, even when life got hard. Now, a full ten years out of high school, I'm finally in a place where I can focus on myself and my goals. My children are older and more independent, and I've built a stable foundation for us. For the first time in a long time, I can think about the future in a way that includes my dreams, not just my responsibilities. It's my turn now. I'm ready to pursue nursing, not only for myself but also to give my kids a better life and to show them what it means to stay determined and never give up on your goals, even if it takes longer than expected. Nursing also holds a personal and emotional connection for me. Although I never had the chance to meet her, my great-grandmother was a nurse for her entire life. My grandmother followed in her footsteps and also dedicated her career to nursing. When I told my grandmother recently that I had finally enrolled in school to become a nurse, her face lit up with pride and excitement. I could see how much it meant to her that I was continuing the legacy of the women in our family. Unfortunately, she passed away unexpectedly in May, shortly after we had that conversation. Her loss was incredibly difficult, but it also gave me even more motivation to pursue nursing. I want to honor her memory and carry forward the passion for caregiving that clearly runs in our family. For the past ten years, I've worked on and off in the medical field. I've had jobs in nursing homes, OB/GYN clinics, and various roles that allowed me to gain firsthand experience with patients and healthcare systems. In between, I tried working in office jobs, but I always felt like something was missing. I never felt fulfilled sitting behind a desk. I realized that I'm happiest when I'm in a medical setting interacting with patients, offering care, and being part of a team that makes a difference in people's lives. That realization confirmed what I already knew deep down: I was meant to be a nurse. I've always had a nurturing spirit, and I find purpose in helping others, especially during their most vulnerable moments. Going back to school now, at this stage in my life, feels right. I bring with me not only the passion and determination of someone who has wanted this for years, but also the maturity, resilience, and life experience that will make me a strong and compassionate nurse. Being a single mother has taught me patience, strength, and sacrifice. It has also taught me how to keep going when things get hard, how to prioritize the needs of others, and how to find solutions in the face of challenges. These qualities will help me not only succeed in nursing school but also thrive in my career as a nurse.

Bellingham Technical College Scholarship Recipients - continued

Claritza Garcia Pantoja -- Radiologic Technology

After high school, I was unsure about my career path. I knew I wanted to help people and had always been interested in healthcare, but I didn't know where to start. During a meeting with my school counselor, we explored different options, and radiologic technology immediately stood out to me. I was drawn to the balance of patient care and advanced technology, and the vital role imaging plays in diagnosis. It felt like the perfect fit—both hands-on and impactful. That conversation sparked my interest and set me on the path toward a meaningful and rewarding career in healthcare.

Esmeralda Suarez Cruz - Surgery Technology

A year ago, my grandmother got heart surgery. It was a very difficult moment in my life considering the risks that come with that surgery but I'm beyond thankful for the surgical team for doing amazing. She still is with us today and I want to be able to help others and save many lives. A lot of people don't go into the surgical technician field, and I would love to pursue this career to expand my knowledge but also help save lives of others loved ones.

Inga Makarova - Radiologic Technology

The moment that inspired me to pursue a career in the medical field was when my mom was sharing how in Russia she was working in a lab/chemistry environment. I could see how much joy she had when she was talking to me and sharing her stories. I knew I wanted to be that passionate about my career. Another thing is the medical field provides stable jobs which means you can have a stable source of income. I grew up in a low-income family with 7 kids so we had financial struggles all throughout my childhood and still do to this day. That experience I went through makes me want to give a stable life to my future kids so they don't have to stress about finances at such a young age. Having a well-paying stable job gives me peace in knowing I may be able to provide that for my future kids.

Salvador Adams-Dudrow -- Radiologic Technology

An experience that has led me to pursue a career in the field of radiology tech is the job I currently work. I work at a recovery and rehabilitation treatment center as a chef. I cook breakfast, lunch, and dinner for 60 individuals with severe mental illness half the days of the week. While this does not directly correlate to rad tech in a one for one sense- I have found that I truly love getting to make a difference in someone's day. I love getting to be a reliable source of safety, patience, and empathy to others. All of this is important to me, and I bring to a job that others would maybe do the bare minimum at. I think I am calm and caring enough to be a beacon of safety for those in moments of hardship. While imaging may be run of the mill task fulfillment some days, some may require a calm and patient demeanor that I know I can provide to those who really need it. What has also helped my inspiration for this field, is my dad. He also went to BTC and became a registered nurse. He currently works at St. Joseph's. My dad is someone who quietly sacrifices and works tirelessly to provide for those he loves. He decided to go back to school after having done carpentry for many years. My dad has hard days in his profession, but he also takes a lot of pleasure in what he gets to provide to the world around him. I learned all my patience and empathy from him, and I would like to follow his footsteps into the health field. I may not change the whole world, but I know I would be happy providing a service that I knew changes someone's day.

Member News



Pictured left:
Mark and Debbie Costello with grandson,
Mateo, on his first birthday in Fallbrook,
California

Picture below and left:
Debbie Costello vacationing - searching out
California's Catholic Missions - Mission San Miguel
pictured.

